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(54) **GENEALOGY SYSTEM FOR INTERFACING WITH SOCIAL NETWORKS**

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G06Q 10/10 (2012.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***G06Q 10/10*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 709/204–207
See application file for complete search history.

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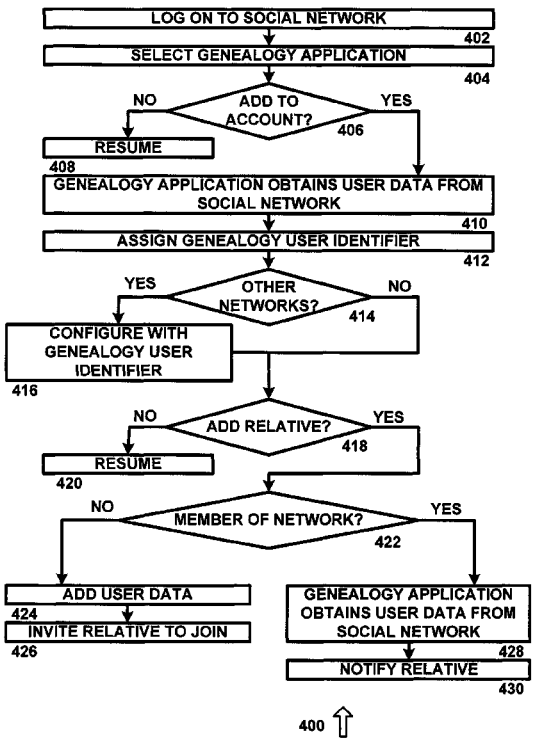
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system for managing genealogy data is provided. The system includes a genealogy application for storing genealogy account identification data for a first genealogy account. A social network interface receives data from the first genealogy account and provides genealogical data to the genealogy application. A relative invitation system generates an invitation to a user to create a second genealogy account for the genealogy application.

16 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



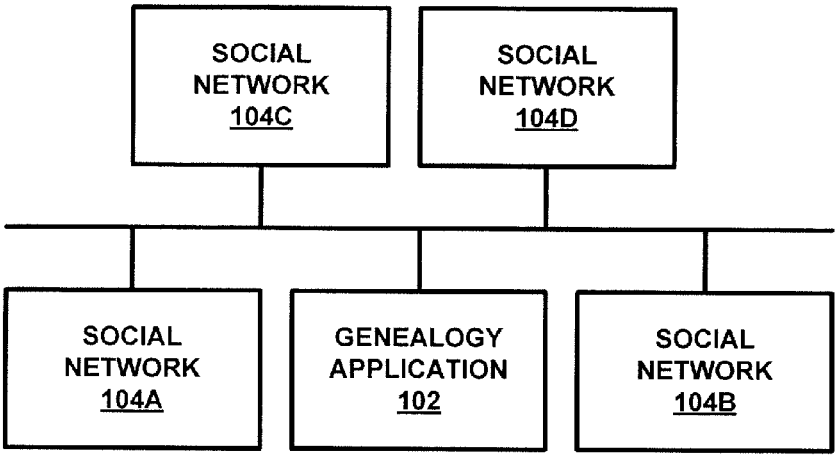


FIGURE 1 100

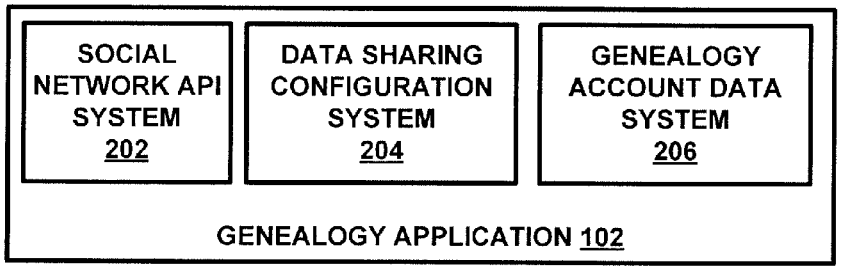


FIGURE 2 200

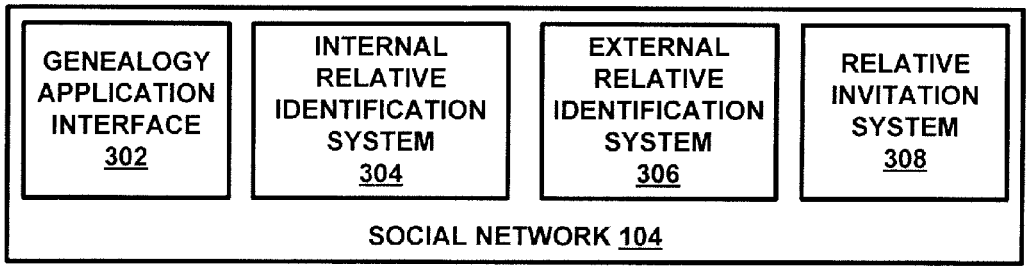


FIGURE 3 300

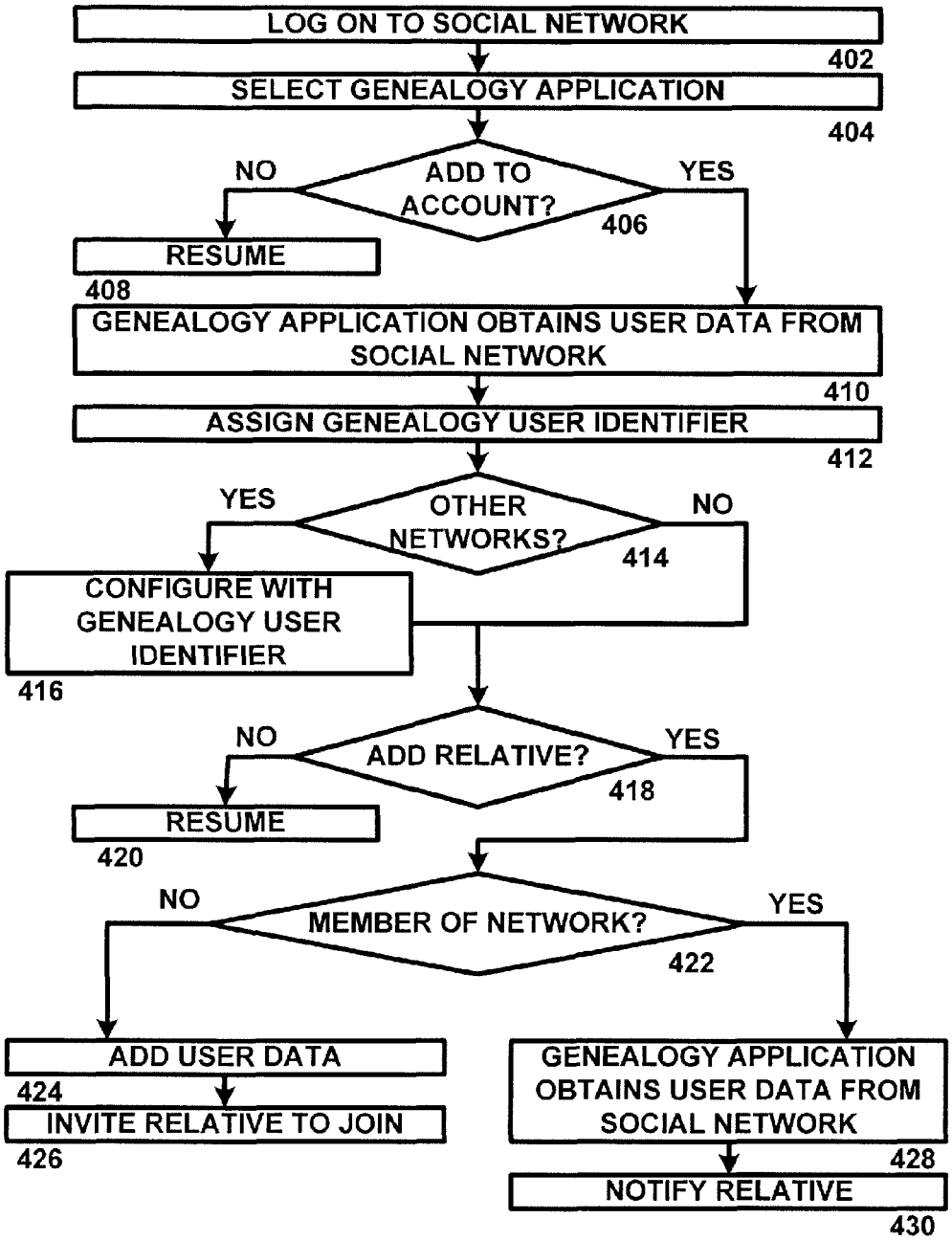

LOG ON TO SOCIAL NETWORK
402
SELECT GENEALOGY APPLICATION
404
ADD TO ACCOUNT?
406
NO
YES
RESUME
408
GENEALOGY APPLICATION OBTAINS USER DATA FROM SOCIAL NETWORK
410
ASSIGN GENEALOGY USER IDENTIFIER
412
OTHER NETWORKS?
414
YES
NO
CONFIGURE WITH GENEALOGY USER IDENTIFIER
416
ADD RELATIVE?
418
NO
YES
RESUME
420
MEMBER OF NETWORK?
422
NO
YES
ADD USER DATA
424
INVITE RELATIVE TO JOIN
426
GENEALOGY APPLICATION OBTAINS USER DATA FROM SOCIAL NETWORK
428
NOTIFY RELATIVE
430

FIGURE 4 400

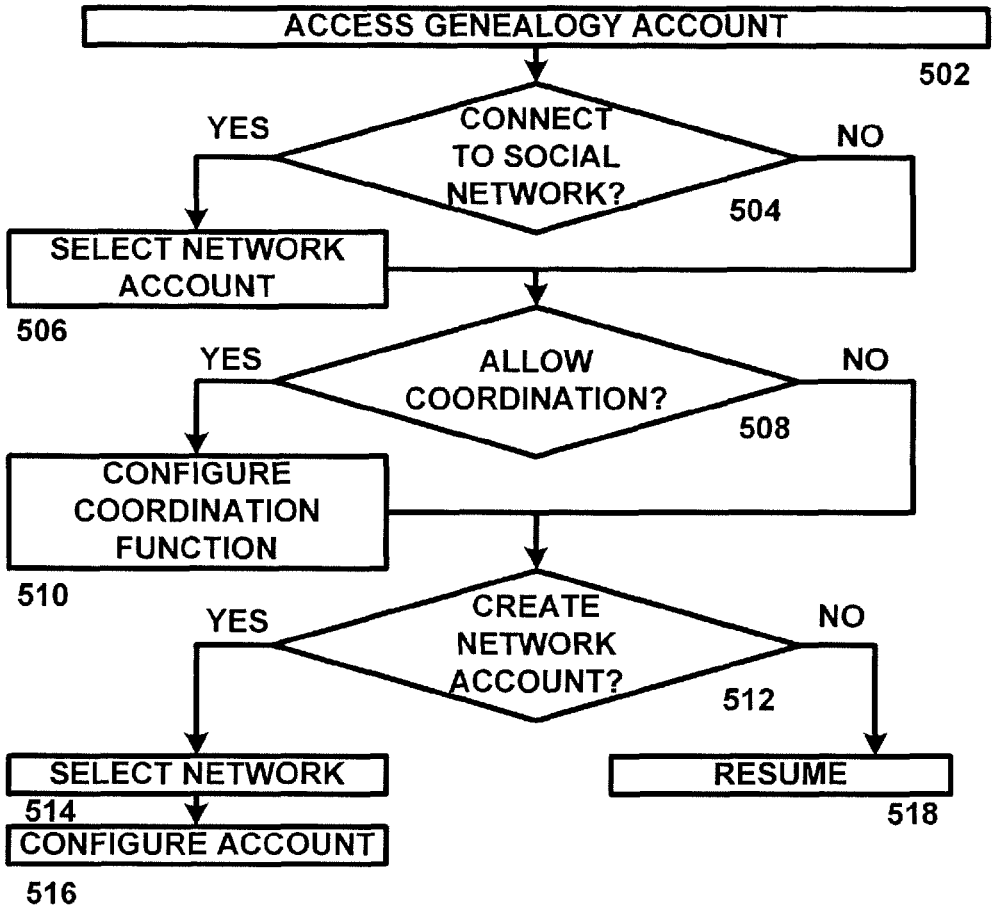

ACCESS GENEALOGY ACCOUNT
502
CONNECT TO SOCIAL NETWORK?
504
YES
NO
SELECT NETWORK ACCOUNT
506
ALLOW COORDINATION?
508
YES
NO
CONFIGURE COORDINATION FUNCTION
510
CREATE NETWORK ACCOUNT?
512
YES
NO
SELECT NETWORK
514
CONFIGURE ACCOUNT
516
RESUME
518

FIGURE 5 500

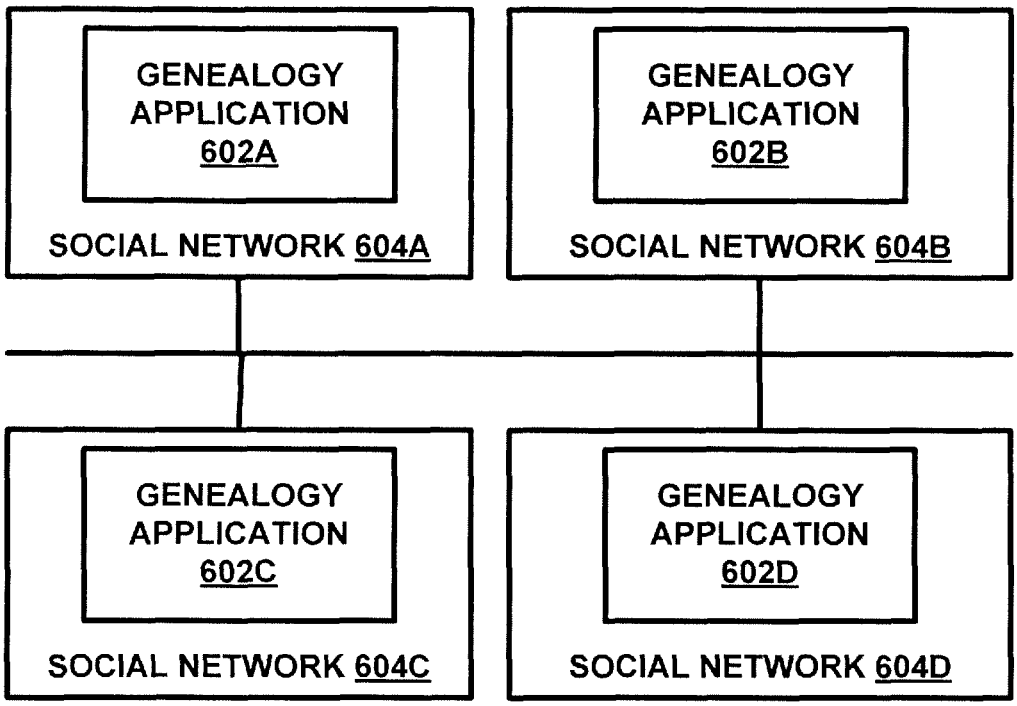

GENEALOGY APPLICATION 602A
SOCIAL NETWORK 604A
GENEALOGY APPLICATION 602B
SOCIAL NETWORK 604B
GENEALOGY APPLICATION 602C
SOCIAL NETWORK 604C
GENEALOGY APPLICATION 602D
SOCIAL NETWORK 604D

FIGURE 6 600

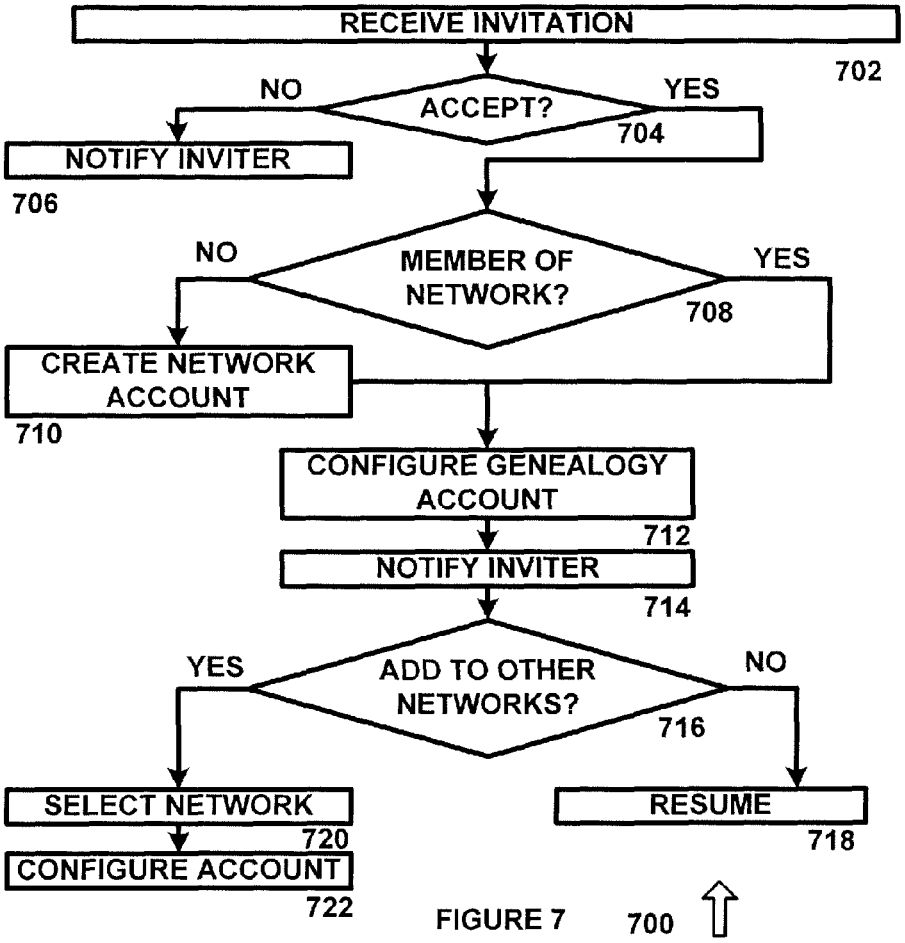


FIGURE 7 700

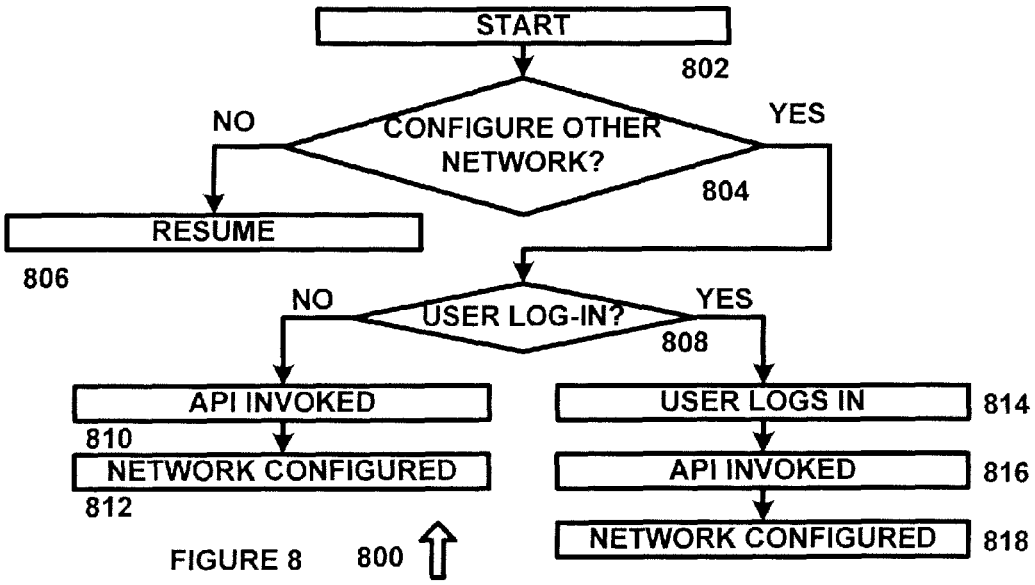


FIGURE 8 800

GENEALOGY SYSTEM FOR INTERFACING WITH SOCIAL NETWORKS

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

This disclosure relates to systems for managing genealogy data, and more specifically to a genealogy system for interfacing with one or more social networks that allows a user to manage genealogy data using one or more social networks.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Systems for managing genealogy data are known in the art. Such systems typically are dedicated systems that store genealogy data, and which do not provide much functionality for interfacing with other data systems. As a result, any data that is provided to those systems must be input from other sources manually, and those sources must be manually identified and searched. Accordingly, a user whose task is to compile a family tree must do so manually and is unable to leverage information that may exist outside of his/her chosen data system.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention, a genealogy system and method for interfacing with one or more social networks are provided that allows a user to manage genealogy data using one or more social networks.

In one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a system for managing genealogy data is provided. The system includes a genealogy application for storing genealogy account identification data for a first genealogy account. A social network interface receives data from the first genealogy account and provides genealogical data to the genealogy application. A relative invitation system generates an invitation to a user to create a second genealogy account for the genealogy application.

Those skilled in the art will further appreciate the advantages and superior features of the invention together with other important aspects thereof on reading the detailed description that follows in conjunction with the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a diagram of a system for managing genealogy data in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **2** is a diagram of a system for providing genealogical data management functionality in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **3** is a diagram a system for interfacing between a social network and a genealogy application in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **4** is a diagram of a method for allowing a genealogy application to be coordinated to a social network in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **5** is a diagram of a method for configuring a genealogy account in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **6** is a diagram of a system for providing a distributed genealogy application within different social networks in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **7** is a diagram of a method for inviting a relative to join a social network in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. **8** is a flowchart of a method for allowing a user to coordinate social networks in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In the description that follows, like parts are marked throughout the specification and drawings with the same reference numerals, respectively. The drawing figures might not be to scale, and certain components can be shown in generalized or schematic form and identified by commercial designations in the interest of clarity and conciseness.

FIG. **1** is a diagram of a system **100** for managing genealogy data in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. System **100** allows genealogy data to be accessed and managed through social networking websites or applications so as to allow users to identify members of a genealogy family and to coordinate through social networks for genealogical information.

System **100** includes genealogy application **102** and social networks **104***a*, **104***b*, **104***c*, and **104***d*, each of which can be implemented in hardware, software, or a suitable combination of hardware and software and which can be one or more software systems operating on a general purpose processing platform. As used herein, "hardware" can include a combination of discrete components, an integrated circuit, an application-specific integrated circuit, a field programmable gate array, or other suitable hardware. As used herein, "software" can include one or more objects, agents, threads, lines of code, subroutines, separate software applications, two or more lines of code or other suitable software structures operating in two or more software applications or on two or more processors, or other suitable software structures. In one exemplary embodiment, software can include one or more lines of code or other suitable software structures operating in a general purpose software application, such as an operating system, and one or more lines of code or other suitable software structures operating in a specific purpose software application.

Genealogy application **102** is coupled to social networks **104***a* through **104***d*. As used herein, the term "coupled" and its cognate terms such as "couples" or "couple," can include a physical connection (such as a wire, optical fiber, or a telecommunications medium), a virtual connection (such as through randomly assigned memory locations of a data memory device or a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) link), a logical connection (such as through one or more semiconductor devices in an integrated circuit), or other suitable connections.

Genealogy application **102** allows a user to organize and coordinate genealogy data using one or more of social networks **104***a* through **104***d* as sources for data. In one exemplary embodiment, genealogy application **102** allows the user to set up family trees, identify relatives, provide genealogical data (such as information about a person, audio/video data of a person, or other information that becomes genealogical data by virtue of being associated with a genealogical family structure), access genealogical databases, and perform other genealogical data management functions. Genealogy application **102** also allows the user to coordinate with one or more of social networks **104***a* through **104***d*. In one exemplary embodiment, genealogy application **102** can be configured to interface with a single

one of social networks **104***a* through **104***d* so as to provide data on individuals who have accounts with that specific social network, to provide permission and set permission for access between accounts on that social network, or to perform other suitable functions. Likewise, genealogy application **102** can be used with two or more of social networks **104***a* through **104***d*, as further described herein. Thus, while genealogy application **102** can be used with a single social network **104***a* through **104***d*, it can also be used to interface with multiple social networks. In this regard, the user account data can include data specific to that user's account, such as the genealogy data and other data besides the genealogy data, such as an account identifier, linkage data, and other suitable data. The genealogy account data includes data specific to the user's genealogy tree, as well as other associated data, such as an account identifier, data identifying individuals that were determined not to be associated with the user's genealogy tree, individuals that are candidates for inclusion in the user's genealogy tree, associated links to data for such individuals, or other suitable data. Relative data can include data for individuals in a user's genealogy tree, such as birth dates, addresses, family relationships, links to other sources of data or accounts, or other suitable data. As such, while there is some overlap in the data that makes up genealogy account data, user account data, and relative data, there can also be additional data in each data set that distinguishes each data set from the other.

Social networks **104***a* through **104***d* provide social networking functions, such as the ability to provide and store information about a person, to form relationships with other persons or members of the social network, such as by having a list of contacts, and otherwise allow individuals to update information so that current information on an individual such as an email address, mailing address, telephone number, or other suitable information can be provided. Social networks **104***a* through **104***d* can include general population social networking applications, social networking applications for schools, social networks for professional organizations, other specialized social network applications, or other suitable social network applications. Typically, such social networks **104***a* through **104***d* are unrelated, and may be commercial competitors with each other, such that interaction between such social networks is limited or nonexistent. Genealogy application **102** thus provides a mechanism for coordination of predetermined classes of data between such social networks for predetermined purposes, so as to allow for controlled interaction between social networks that does not presently exist.

In operation, system **100** allows a user of one or more of social networks **104***a* through **104***d* to access a genealogy application **102** so as to manage genealogical data and to coordinate the genealogical data with persons having accounts on social networks **104***a* through **104***d*. System **100** thus allows a single genealogy application to be coordinated with different social networks so as to take advantage of genealogical information that may be stored in different social networks **104***a* through **104***d*.

FIG. **2** is a diagram of a system **200** for providing genealogical data management functionality in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. System **200** includes genealogy application **102** and social network API system **202**, data sharing configuration system **204**, and genealogy account data system **206**, each of which can be implemented in hardware, software, or a suitable combination of hardware and software and which can be one or more software systems operating on a general purpose processing platform. System **200** can be a centralized application operating as a stand-alone system that interfaces with different social network applications or websites, can be a distributed application operating on different social network applications or websites, or can be configured in other suitable manners.

Social network API system **202** allows data from a social network to be retrieved and allows data to be provided to other social networks, genealogy applications in other social networks, or genealogy application **102**. In one exemplary embodiment, a proprietary and confidential application programming interface can be provided for genealogy application **102** or other suitable applications so as to allow genealogy application **102** to interface with a social network and exchange data. Likewise, social network API system **202** can allow a user to identify or select a social network for which an API already exists, to configure an API that will allow the social network to provide data for that user, such as by providing fields for a password, user ID or other suitable data, or to perform other suitable functions.

Data sharing configuration system **204** allows a user to identify what data can be shared with others through genealogy application **102**. In one exemplary embodiment, users can store a large amount of data on a social network but can restrict access to such data to certain persons, can restrict classes of data that will be available to genealogy application **102**, or can perform other suitable functions. Data sharing configuration system **204** allows a user to identify what data may be provided to users of other social networks, such as where a users' data access configuration controls for a first social network would not be applicable in a second social network, allows a user to identify updating characteristics, such as a period of time or data set for which coordination with different social networks should be allowed, an order of precedence for coordination (e.g., which of two or more social networks should be the "primary" data source), or other suitable data.

Genealogy account data system **206** allows the user to configure and manage a genealogy account. In one exemplary embodiment, genealogy data can include family trees that show relationships between individuals such as mother-father relationships, parent-child relationships, brother-sister relationships, grandfather-grandmother relationships, aunt-uncle relationships, or other suitable relationships. In this manner, genealogy trees can be configured and coordinated, and can be readily adapted to account for and include additional data from other genealogy sources, such as other users of genealogy accounts and users of social network accounts. For example, a link can be provided to a user genealogy account on a social network that allows the contact information for that person to be periodically updated, so as to ensure that the data for individuals in a genealogy tree is kept up to date. Likewise, additional information from a social network can be used to populate the genealogy data, such as where a social network allows users to add data fields for children or other relatives, to change their marital status, or to otherwise change data that can be provided to the genealogy application.

In operation, system **200** allows users to configure and manage a genealogy application so as to interface with one or more different social networks. In this manner, users of different social networks can be coordinated through a genealogy application so as to allow the genealogy data to be supplemented with data from different social networks.

FIG. **3** is a diagram of a system **300** for interfacing between a social network and a genealogy application in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. System **300** includes social network **104** and

genealogy application interface **302**, internal relative identification system **304**, external relative identification system **306** and relative invitation system **308**, each of which can implemented in hardware, software, or a suitable combination of hardware and software, and which can be one or more software systems operating on a general purpose processing platform.

Genealogy application interface **302** allows a social network to be configured to provide data to and receive data from a genealogy application. In one exemplary embodiment, genealogy application interface **302** can be used to interface between genealogy applications within the social networks, such as where a distributed genealogy application architecture is used instead of a centralized genealogy application architecture. Likewise, genealogy application interface **302** can be used to interface with an external genealogy application or other suitable applications.

Internal relative identification system **304** allows a user to locate a relative using genealogical data and user data of a social network. In one exemplary embodiment, a user of genealogy application **102** can access a database of users of a social network and can locate a relative or potential relative using account data stored on the social network user database, such as data that identifies where an account holder of the social network was born, has resided or presently resides, relatives of the account holder, or other suitable data. In another exemplary embodiment, genealogical data stored on the social network user database can be utilized, such as where the social network includes a distributed genealogy application. The social network can have a single user database with fields for the genealogy application, a separate database for the genealogy application, or other suitable configurations.

External relative identification system **306** allows a user to locate a relative using genealogical data from sources other than a social network. In one exemplary embodiment, a user of genealogy application **102** can access a database of genealogy data and can locate a relative or potential relative using data stored on the database, such as data that identifies where a person was born, has resided or presently resides, relatives of the person, or other suitable data. In another exemplary embodiment, external relative identification system **306** can search social network user databases using genealogical data from sources other than a social network, such as to confirm whether a person associated with the genealogical data has an account on the social network.

Relative invitation system **308** allows a user to invite an identified relative for inclusion in genealogy data, to invite such relatives to join a social network, and to perform other suitable functions. Incentives can also be provided, such as where a relative can be invited to join one of several social networks that interface with the genealogy application, and where the operator of the genealogy application receives an incentive to promote one of the social networks. The relative can also be given the option of setting controls on the data that is to be provided to the genealogy application, to decline the invitation, to decline and request or provide additional data, or to perform other suitable functions.

In operation, system **300** allows social networks to be configured to interface with a centralized genealogy application, to allow a distributed genealogy application to coordinate data, or for other suitable purposes. System **300** allows relatives to be located and invited to join the genealogy application, a social network, or other suitable applications so as to allow the relative to provide additional data for use by the genealogy application.

FIG. **4** is a diagram of a method **400** for allowing a genealogy application to be coordinated to a social network in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Method **400** begins at **402** where a user logs on to a social network. In one exemplary embodiment, the user may log on to a social network that the user has an account on, the user can start a new account on a social network, or other suitable processes can be performed. The method then proceeds to **404**.

At **404**, a user selects the genealogy application, such as by selecting from available applications on the social network, by requesting access (such as where the genealogy application is not publicly displayed or is selected using a hyperlink provided in an invitation), or in other suitable manners. The method then proceeds to **406**.

At **406**, it is determined whether the genealogy application should be added to the user's account. If it is determined that the user has not selected to have the genealogy application added to their account, the method proceeds to **408** and resumes the previous operation or terminates. Otherwise the method proceeds to **410** where the genealogy application obtains user data from the social network. In one exemplary embodiment, the genealogy application can be a centralized genealogy application, such that the genealogy application accesses the social network through an API. In another exemplary embodiment, the genealogy application can be hosted on the social network, such that the social network information is received from or provided to the social network, from one or more other social networks through an API between genealogy applications on those social networks, or in other suitable manners. Any suitable configuration of APIs can be used, such as an API of a genealogy application that resides within a single social network that is between the social network and the genealogy application, an API between that social network and another social network that is used to coordinate data for genealogy applications on the different social networks, an API between genealogy applications on different social networks that is independent of the different social networks, or other suitable configurations. The method then proceeds to **412**.

At **412**, the user is assigned a user identifier. In one exemplary embodiment, a unique user identifier can be used so as to allow the user to coordinate genealogy information for genealogy applications operating on other social networks, to allow different social networks to interact with a centralized genealogy application, or in other suitable manners. The method then proceeds to **414**.

At **414**, it is determined whether other social networks are to be selected, such as where the genealogy application can interface with other social networks. If it is determined that other social networks are not to be selected, or if the genealogy application only interfaces with a single social network, the method proceeds to **418**, otherwise the method proceeds to **416** where one or more selected social networks are configured with the genealogy user identifier. In one exemplary embodiment, a user can access social networks from a centralized genealogy application, such where the user has a number of social network accounts and uses a genealogy application identifier to quickly configure those accounts with genealogy data. Likewise, other suitable processes can be used. The method then proceeds to **418**.

At **418**, it is determined whether a relative should be added. If it is determined a relative should not be added then the method proceeds to **420** where the user resumes other operations. Otherwise the method proceeds to **422**.

At **422**, it is determined whether the relative to be added is a member of the social network. If it is determined that the

relative is not a member of the social network, then the method proceeds to **424** and the user adds user data, such as to allow the relative to be contacted. The method then proceeds to **426** where the relative is invited to join, such as by sending an email or in other suitable manners.

Likewise, if it is determined that at **422** the new relative is a member of the social network then the method proceeds to **428** where the genealogy application obtains the user data from the social network. In one exemplary embodiment, the genealogy application can determine whether controls have been implemented to limit the type of data that can be accessed, and a request to change the access control settings can be generated. The method then proceeds to **430**.

At **430**, the relative is notified that they have been added to the genealogy application. For example, if the relative has set controls on the amount or type of data that can be provided to other applications, the request can be made to allow the relative to provide additional data or other suitable processes can be used.

In operation, method **400** allows the user to configure a genealogy account so as to allow the data stored in social networks to be used to coordinate genealogy functions. In this manner, a user can access various social networks and leverage data collected by social networks in a centralized or distributed genealogical application.

FIG. **5** is a diagram of a method **500** for configuring a genealogy account in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Method **500** begins at **502** where a genealogy account is accessed. In one exemplary embodiment, a user can access a genealogy account from a central genealogy server, from a genealogy application operating within one of a plurality of social networks, or in other suitable manners. The method then proceeds to **504**.

At **504**, it is determined whether to connect to a social network, such as where a user can elect to access a social network from a centralized genealogy application, where a user can elect to change from a first social network having a genealogy application to a second social network having a genealogy application, or to perform other suitable functions. If it is determined that connection to a social network is not required the method proceeds to **508**, otherwise the method proceeds to **506** where a network account is selected and the connection is performed. The method then proceeds to **508**.

At **508**, it is to determined whether to allow coordination of genealogical information and social network information. If it is determined that coordination is not required, the method proceeds to **512**, otherwise the method proceeds to **510** for the coordination function that has been configured. In one exemplary embodiment, a user can select controls for allowing coordination of data between social networks, between genealogical applications in social networks, or other suitable controls. The method then proceeds to **512**.

At **512**, it is determined whether to create a new network account. If it is determined that no new network account is to be created, then the method proceeds to **518** and the user resumes standard operations. Otherwise, the method proceeds to **514** where a social network is selected and the method proceeds to **516** where the new social network account is configured. A user can also or alternatively create a new network account before allowing coordination, or other suitable processes can also or alternatively be used.

In operation, method **500** allows a user to configure a genealogy application so as to allow genealogical data to be shared between social networks. Method **500** allows efficient management of genealogical data that may be available in different social networks, and provides for individual user control of account settings.

FIG. **6** is a diagram of a system **600** for providing a distributed genealogy application within different social networks in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. System **600** includes genealogy applications **602***a* through **602***d* and social networks **604***a* through **604***d*. Genealogy applications **602***a* through **602***d* coordinate and manage data through periodic updates and sharing of data, and can be provided with rules for determining priority and conflict resolution. In one exemplary embodiment, priority can be assigned to one of genealogy applications **602***a* through **602***d*, such as where one of the genealogy applications is designated as a master or primary and the other genealogy applications are designated as secondary. Likewise, priority can be assigned to one of social networks **604***a* through **604***d*, such as where one of the social networks is designated as a master or primary and the other social networks are designated as secondary. Another updating process can be continuous, such as where the genealogy application within a social network or a centralized genealogy application that is updated transfers changes to all other genealogy applications or the centralized genealogy application. In this manner, any changes are reflected globally as they are made.

The designation of primary and secondary can be configured by individual accounts, such as to allow a user to designate a genealogy application operating on one social network as the primary genealogy application for management and data sharing, but where the user can designate one social network as a primary social network for obtaining additional genealogy data or identifying additional relatives. Likewise, the designation of primary and secondary genealogy applications and social networks can be performed as a function of the overall system architecture.

For example, a user may elect to have the genealogy application on a social network that is dedicated to certain groups of professionals, a student organization or other suitable social networks designated as the primary genealogy application, such as where that social network is the social network that is primarily accessed by the user. However, another social network that is available to the general public may provide a better source for identifying relatives for addition to the user's genealogy data. In this exemplary embodiment, the user can configure the secondary genealogy applications on the other social networks to provide data to the primary genealogy application on the secondary social network, but the user can also designate the primary social network to be the social network to which non-network relatives are invited to join, so as to provide an incentive for relatives to join the primary social network and in so doing, potentially identify additional relatives.

In another exemplary embodiment, the genealogy application service provider may have an agreement with one of the social networks to send invitations for non-network relatives to join that social network as a default social network. In this exemplary embodiment, the genealogy application service provider may configure the genealogy application on that social network to be the primary application. Other suitable configurations can also or alternatively be provided.

In operation, system **600** allows a genealogy application to be distributed in different social networks and provides for coordination of data gathered at each social network between genealogy applications. System **600** allows users or

system operators to configure the types of data and synchronization processes that will be used to coordinate that data in a distributed architecture.

FIG. **7** is a diagram of a method **700** for inviting a relative to join a social network in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Method **700** begins at **702** where a user receives an invitation, such as an email or other message notifying the user that they have been asked to join a genealogy application, a social network and genealogy application, or other suitable invitations. The method then proceeds to **704** where it is determined whether the user has accepted. If an acceptance has not been received the method proceeds to **706** where the inviter is notified that the user has either declined or not received the invitation. Otherwise the method proceeds to **708**.

At **708**, it is determined whether the user is a member of the social network. If the user is a member of the social network, the method proceeds to **712**, otherwise the method proceeds to **710** where the user creates a new account on the social network. The method then proceeds to **712**.

At **712**, the genealogy account is configured, such as to allow the genealogy account to be populated with genealogy data, personal data, social network links, and other suitable data. The method then proceeds to **714**.

At **714**, the inviter is notified that the invited user has joined the social network and the invited user's genealogy data is then coordinated with the genealogy account data of the inviter. The method then proceeds to **716** where it is determined whether or not to add links to accounts on other social networks. If it is determined at **716** that links to accounts on other social networks are not required, the method proceeds to **718** and resumes other operation. Otherwise the method proceeds to **720** where a social network is selected. The method then proceeds to **722** where the account is configured, such as by allowing the new user to provide a user id, password, a genealogy user identifier, access permissions or other suitable data. In another exemplary embodiment, a user's social network account can be configured by using the social network's API to obtain the user's unique session key, such that the social network's API can be used to identify the user.

In operation, method **700** allows a user to be invited to join a genealogy application and to create a new social network account for use with the genealogy application, to add existing social network accounts for use with the genealogy application, to configure the types of data that will be provided to the genealogy application, and to perform other management functions. Method **700** can be used in a genealogy application that is centralized, distributed or in other suitable architectures.

FIG. **8** is a flowchart of a method **800** for allowing a user to coordinate social networks in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Method **800** begins at **802** and proceeds to **804** where it is determined whether or not to configure another social network. If it is determined not to configure another social network, the method proceeds to **806** and resumes other operations. Otherwise the method proceeds to **808** where it is determined whether a user should log in or if user log-in is not required.

If it is determined at **808** that user log-in is not required, then the method proceeds to **810** where an application programming interface is invoked. In one exemplary embodiment, the application programming interface can be used to transfer data in accordance with predetermined or user-configurable data transfer provisions. In another exemplary embodiment, the application program interface can be configured, such as to interface with a new social network. The method then proceeds to **812** where the social network is configured to interface with the genealogy application, such as by applying user-selected or predetermined data coordination controls.

Likewise, if it is determined user log-in is required, the method proceeds to **814** where the user logs in and then proceeds to **816** where an application program interface is invoked, if one is present. The method then proceeds to **818** where the network is configured, such as by allowing the user to configure user-selectable controls for coordination of data, by allowing the user to provide data that is not provided through an application program interface, or in other suitable manners.

In operation, method **800** allows a user to configure multiple social networks to interact with a genealogy account, such as a centralized genealogy account, a genealogy account that is distributed on the different social networks, or other suitable configurations. In this manner, the social networks and data fields in social networks that are used to coordinate with a genealogy application can be configured by a user, a system operator, or other suitable persons.

The above disclosed subject matter is to be considered illustrative, and not restrictive, and the appended claims are intended to cover all such modifications, enhancements, and other embodiments which fall within the true spirit and scope of the present disclosure. Thus, to the maximum extent allowed by law, the scope of the claimed subject matter is to be determined by the broadest permissible interpretation of the following claims and their equivalents, and shall not be restricted or limited by the foregoing detailed description.

What is claimed is:

1. A system for managing genealogy data comprising:

a genealogy application operating on a processor and operable to store genealogy account identification data for a first genealogy account;

a social network interface operating on a processor and operable to receive data from the first genealogy account and to provide data from the social network to the genealogy application; and

a relative invitation system operating on a processor and operable to identify a genealogical relative from the social network data without input from a user, to present the genealogical relative to the user for approval to be invited to form an association with a genealogical data structure, and to generate an invitation to the genealogical relative to allow the genealogical relative to be automatically added to the genealogical data structure.

2. The system of claim **1** wherein the relative invitation system is operable to receive a response from the genealogical relative and to associate a second genealogy account with the first genealogy account.

3. The system of claim **1** further comprising a data sharing configuration system operating on a processor and operable to automatically determine which of first genealogical data and second genealogical data should take priority if there is a conflict between the first genealogical data and the second genealogical data.

4. The system of claim **1** wherein the social network interface comprises a genealogy application interface for interfacing with a centralized genealogy application.

5. The system of claim **1** wherein the social network interface comprises a social network application program interface for interfacing with an external social network.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the social network interface comprises a social network application program interface for interfacing with internal social network data.

7. The system of claim 1 further comprising an internal relative identification system operating on a processor and operable to identify a user of a social network based on the genealogical data.

8. The system of claim 1 further comprising an external relative identification system operating on a processor and operable to identify a non-user of a social network based on the genealogical data and to generate an invitation to the non-user of the social network.

9. The system of claim 1 further comprising a second social network interface for receiving data from the first genealogy account and providing second genealogical data to the genealogy application.

10. A method for managing genealogy data comprising:

creating a genealogy account for a user with a processor;

associating genealogical data for the genealogy account with the processor;

electronically receiving relative data from a first social network, including access restriction data;

automatically identifying a person associated with the relative data if the person has not restricted access with the processor;

electronically transmitting an invitation to the person;

receiving an acceptance of the invitation from the person associated with the relative data with the processor; and

automatically associating the relative data from the first social network with the genealogy account with the processor and without approval from the user.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein creating the genealogy account for the user comprises creating the genealogy account for the user as part of a social network account.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein creating the genealogy account for the user comprises creating the genealogy account for the user independent of a social network account.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein receiving the relative data from the first social network comprises receiving the relative data through an application program interface between a genealogy application and the first social network.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein receiving the relative data from the first social network comprises receiving the relative data directly from a database of the first social network.

15. The method of claim 10 further comprising generating an invitation for a relative to create a genealogy account.

16. The method of claim 10 wherein automatically associating the relative data from the first social network with the genealogy account without approval from the user further comprises automatically adding genealogy data from an account associated with the person to the user's genealogy account.

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